

Hingham, Jan. 31, 1838.

My dear Miss Weston,

Annina has been down to pay us a visit - this cold snap, & is going to Boston to-morrow morning. I embrace this opportunity to chat a moment by letter. I wish you were here to hear, or rather, to read a few sentences with me from Cicero. I find him the same delightful writer, that I thought him some four or five years ago, when I read many of his works. I took up last evening his treatise *De Legibus*, and really there is as much delightful playfulness and as much pure Christianity (if I may be allowed the expression,) in the first 12 sections, as can be found in any modern ~~and~~ writing of similar length. His <sup>very</sup> first position is, that the world is governed by a supreme intelligence; and this he requires Atticus to admit as a necessary basis on which this disputation is to proceed. He makes "nature" the fountain of law; and by nature he means nearly what we do by Deity. He makes reason, (*ratio*) the bond of relationship between man and the gods, and "right reason" (*recta ratio*) and law.



(lex) nearly synonymous terms. He derives civil law or civil right (*ius civile*) from *lex*, but considers the actual civil laws (*jura civilia*) as very imperfect and very contradictory to the *lex naturalis*. From these principles he comes to some interesting conclusions; one of which is, that we are born for justice, or to be just, and that right is not determined <sup>(as we now express it)</sup> by human laws, but by the law of God: nos ad justitiam esse natos, neque opinione, sed natura constitutum esse jus. Another conclusion is, that we <sup>should</sup> love our neighbors as ourselves, ~~without~~ which no pure friendship can <sup>subsist</sup> ~~exist~~: ut nihilo sese plus, quam alterum diligat; .... cuius (i.e. friendship) est eavis, ut, simul atque sibi aliquid, quam alteri, maturet, nulla sit. Don't you think, Miss Weston, that Cicero would have been an Abolitionist if he had lived at the present time, and in this Republic? Excuse this bit of antiquity, and let me ask you something about *le temps qui se passe*. Have you seen what a beautiful Anti-Slavery Address Mr. Rhett of S. C. has made to his constituents? In sooth, I have not seen so singular a production for a long time. I have so many questions to ask you that I know not which to ask first; so I think I will leave them all till I see you, which, if the plan I have laid succeeds, will be pretty soon. My plan is this, that you come down and pay us a visit when Mr. Quincy comes to give



his Lecture, which will be, I presume,  
next week. Mr. L. will come to my house,  
and I wish you to come too, if you can  
do no more than come down in the stage  
and go up again the next morning. I do  
not know yet what night he will come,  
that is left to Mr. Lincoln. But I will let  
you know. Do not disappoint us if you  
can avoid it. Mrs. S. is going to Boston after  
Mr. L. has been here, to spend two or three weeks.  
Perhaps she will be ready to go up with  
you.

I must break off abruptly. Write when  
you have nothing better to do, and believe  
me yours in sympathy & friendship,

Increase S. Smith.

Miss Caroline Weston.



Miss Caroline Weston,  
Boston,  
Mass.  
Politeness of Miss Welber.

1838  
Increase S. Smith